



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

March 5, 2013

Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner, 860-509-8171

House Bill 6526 – An Act Concerning Toxics Disclosure and Innovation For Healthy Children

The Department of Public Health opposes House Bill 6526 as written.

The bill would have a significant fiscal impact on DPH, and many of the regulatory actions called for are not under the normal scope of DPH duties or authority. However, there are some areas of the bill that DPH supports. If the language was modified, there are some tasks that DPH is capable of working on, that are protective of public health and can be completed within existing resources.

DPH is able to develop a list of "priority chemicals." However, the bill calls for adding to the list every 2 years, then revisiting the list every 3 years. In an effort to minimize confusion with the timing, DPH suggests updating the list every two years.

Section 4 of the bill requires manufacturers to submit a Product Innovation Plan to DPH for chemicals that are on the priority chemical list. DPH does not have resources to review and approve Innovation Plans. However, the Department could, within existing resources, take a simpler approach by developing a chemical specific "action plan" whereby the DPH would conduct an evaluation of the risks and exposures for prioritized chemicals and provide a list of actions to address those exposures. Actions might include recommendations to the legislature on a chemical by chemical basis to label, ban or, phase out a specific chemical. Another option would include a referral of certain mandates called for in this bill to an outside organization such as the Interstate Chemical Clearinghouse (IC2) which would require funding in order for them to collect data from companies required to report use of priority chemicals or to review and approve product innovation plans.

The remainder of the bill creates a regulatory program that includes a fee system which would require significant resources. DPH is not equipped to oversee such a program and the associated tasks are not currently within our jurisdiction.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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